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MEETING MINUTES
RI/FS for the Sand, Gravel, and Stone Site
Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland

Date: 25 February 1985 (Monday)

Place: State of Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (MD DHMH), Waste Management Administration Field Office, Baltimore, Maryland

Participants: Roy Schrock, EPA Region III
Marilyn Plitnik, EPA Region III
David Healy, MD DHMH
John Chlada, MD DHMH
Mark Cox, MD DHMH
Tom Bettendorf, MD DHMH
Eugene DeJoise, MD DHMH
Robert E. Stecik, Jr., NUS
Ramesh Shah, NUS
James S. Whang, AEPCO
Surya Prasad, AEPCO

The meeting was called to discuss the status of the project as a whole with emphasis on the subsurface investigation program and to plan subsequent project activities. The meeting items discussed are summarized below.

(1) AEPCO staff gave a briefing on the tasks completed and on the information collected and analyzed for the site, covering site topographic features, surface water drainage patterns, sampling/monitoring networks (e.g., surface water, sediment, surface and subsurface soil, bedrock, biota, wetlands, flood plains, groundwater aquifers, and other environmental receptors), and preliminary laboratory results for the environmental samples collected. AEPCO personnel emphasized that this information was preliminary and subject to possible later revisions.

(2) Geophysical logs, boring/well logs and information related to shallow, unconsolidated deep and bedrock aquifers at the site were reviewed. It was tentatively concluded that adequate information is now available regarding the shallow aquifers. General findings regarding these aquifers include:

- The shallow clay layer around Pond P01 dips southward; and the shallow groundwater moves southward and forms a seepage line south of this pond and north of Lower Haul Road.

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- The shallow clay layer around Pond PO2 dips eastward; and the shallow groundwater flows eastward and breaks out the surface as evidenced by a seep in the eastern wooded area of the site.

- The shallow clay layer around Pond PO3 dips westward toward the "Sedge Meadow" area thence southward; and the shallow groundwater moves in the general direction consistent with the dipping of the clay layer and discharges to the Sedge Meadow in the form of seeps.

The hNu readings taken at shallow monitoring wells (SMW's) downstream from the above ponds are higher than the background, while hNu readings on upgradient wells are near the background level. This further documents the determination that the shallow groundwater is contaminated and that it discharges to surface water downstream of the ponds.

(2) Available information on bedrock wells on and near the site indicates that bedrock in the area dips southward. Groundwater elevations measured at a cluster of wells (DMW-7, BMW-7, and SMW-11) indicate that there are hydraulic head differences among these wells, and a potential for the upper acquifer to recharge the lower aquifer exists. However, conclusive information was lacking to define whether aquifers at various depths are actually inter-communicating. This prompted a decision to collect groundwater samples from DMW-3, DMW-7, BMW-7, and DMW-6. The samples were tested for the presence of volatile organic compounds by NUS. The unvalidated results show that all three aquifers are contaminated with similar chemical compounds, notably acetone, methylene chloride, chloroform, and tetrachloroethylene. (Post-meeting note: During the preparation of these meeting minutes, AEPCO was informed by NUS that these laboratory results had just been positively validated. Thus, it is conclusive that these aquifiers are contaminated and aquifer inter-communication potentially exists.) All participants agreed that the Phase II drilling program should be implemented, consisting of 3 additional pairs of bedrock wells and unconsolidated deep wells to further investigate this bedrock contamination problem. EPA requested that a cost estimate be prepared for the Phase II drilling program.

(3) AEPCO informed the participants that all wells drilled at the site had been developed and sampled the week before the meeting.

(4) The meeting participants reviewed available information regarding residential/institutional wells near the site and concurred with the particular wells proposed by NUS/AEPCO for the residential well investigation task.

The wells were selected based on the following criteria:

- o Reasonable distance from the site
- o Probability of picking up groundwater plumes south of the site
- o Adequate drilling logs available for wells selected for later analysis
- o Adequate coverage of the circumference of the site

It was also agreed that AEPCO will proceed with the residential well sampling program on February 26, 1985 (Tuesday). In the interest of good community relations, Roy Schrock from EPA and Eugene DeJoise from MD DHMH will accompany AEPCO personnel during this sampling effort. Concurrent with this sampling program, AEPCO will collect samples from four residential bedrock wells and deliver them to NUS for screening tests for volatile organic compounds.

The desirability was discussed of obtaining well water elevation measurements for the residential wells, if field conditions allow. (Post-meeting note: During the sampling meeting onsite on February 26, 1985, Eugene DeJoise of MD DHMH expressed a concern that the measuring of water elevations in residential wells might cause sanitation problems. For this reason, the attempt was aborted.)

(5) Participants were given a copy of the AEPC draft Temporary Relocation Plan for the test pit excavation task and asked to comment. Tentative test pit locations would generally be located in Ponds P01, P02, and P03, and in suspected waste burial areas as indicated in the geophysical study report.

At this point, John Chlada noted that new information has been collected and is currently being reviewed by the State. This information was embedded in the voluminous documents turned in by potential responsible parties for the North East Site approximately 8 miles east-northeast of the subject site. The new information might have been valuable for the design of the test pit excavation program as well as other tasks of the RI/FS project. However, information in one of the documents indicated that a fire took place at the Elkton site. Evidence of the presence of volatile organic compounds (e.g., acetone) raised the question of potential public safety problems during excavation of test pits. It was agreed that in light of what is already known about the site, the test pit excavation program may not yield much additional information for the purposes of this RI/FS. (Post-meeting note: During the recent well sampling activities, James Whang was informed by Roy Schrock that this subject was discussed in an afternoon meeting among EPA and MD DHMH subsequent to this morning meeting. They concurred that the test pit excavation task should be eliminated from the project.) John Chlada is still in the process of reviewing all of the new documents, and will forward information relevant to the subject site to AEPCO for their review in a week's time.

(6) AEPCO presented a list of available remedial technologies and tentative outlines for the RI and FS reports; and requested comments on them.

(7) The meeting participants agreed that certain portions of the site should be incorporated into the ground survey program, which also includes all on-site monitoring wells, off-site residential wells, and gages in Ponds P01, P02, and P03. The re-survey is tentatively scheduled for the week of March 4, 1985.

(8) It was mentioned that inaccuracies in the topographic mapping of certain areas had resulted because the foliage cover was full during the time (June 1984) that the aerial photogrammetry was conducted. Additional costs may be necessary to correct these inaccuracies.